



**Opposition Statement SB413**  
Apprenticeship 2030 Commission  
Deborah Brocato, Legislative Consultant  
Maryland Right to Life

**We Oppose SB413**

On behalf of our 200,000 followers across the state, we respectfully object to SB413. While providing affordable training for career pathways for young people is a positive in general, we oppose the program being used to recruit program participants into the abortion industry workforce. We oppose any funds for this bill being used to fund the training of participants for the abortion industry. Maryland Right to Life strongly recommends an amendment added with language that would exclude abortion funding and exclude recruitment of participants for the abortion industry workforce.

In addition to the taxpayer funding of participants for the abortion industry, Maryland Right to Life opposes the further erosion of medical care for the women and girls of Maryland. This program recruits participants with minimal education as stated, "reaching the blueprint goal for 45% of high school graduates completing the high school level of a registered apprenticeship." Surgical and medical abortions carry a risk of injury up to and including death. Surgical abortions are invasive and the woman or girl risks injuries including a punctured uterus, incomplete abortion, lacerations to the vagina and cervix, sepsis, and death. The risks for a woman or girl taking the abortion pill include hemorrhage, sepsis, incomplete abortion, menstrual abnormalities and death. The women and girls of Maryland deserve the care of trained, licensed physicians. The Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 removed the physician requirement for women and girls seeking abortion. This bill further reduces the quality of medical care that women and girls receive in Maryland.

**Maryland is one of only 4 states that forces taxpayer funding of abortion.** Maryland taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize the recruitment and training of workers for the abortion industry, especially workers that put the health of women and girls in jeopardy.

**The state of Maryland is failing to protect women and girls.** Public policy has failed to keep pace with the abortion industry's rapid deployment of chemical abortion pills. The assembly removed the final safeguard in law for women seeking abortion when they enacted the Abortion Care Access Act of 2022 and removed the physician only requirement. In doing so, the Assembly removed abortion from the spectrum of healthcare. This bill, as it stands, will allow more individuals to become "qualified providers" able to commit surgical and chemical abortions through birth. By providing training pathways for "qualified providers" for the abortion industry, the state of Maryland further represents itself as a state sponsor of abortion.



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**Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion.** The 2023 Marist poll shows that 60% of Americans, pro-life and pro-choice, oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. 81% of Americans favor public funds being prioritized for health and family planning services that save the lives of mothers and their children including programs for improving maternal health and birth and delivery outcomes, well baby care and parenting classes.

**Abuse of abortion drugs.** The state is turning a blind eye to the fact that as much as 65% of abortions are not by choice, but by coercion. Potential for misuse and coercion is high when there is no way to verify who is consuming the medication and whether they are doing so willingly. Sex traffickers and other abusers will find it easier to obtain the lethal abortion drugs to use on their victims and continue their criminal abuse. This program will provide a pipeline of low experience, low education “qualified providers” delivering abortion services with risk of injury up to and including death.

While we oppose all abortion, we strongly recommend that the state of Maryland enact reasonable regulations to protect the health and safety of the women and girls of Maryland. Without an amendment to exclude abortion purposes including the prescription and distribution of chemical abortion drugs from the application of this bill, we urge you to reject the bill as a whole.

For these reasons, we ask for an unfavorable report on **SB413**.